

Abstract of the Invention

5 In Web applications, collections of individual document files are stored on a delivery server for delivering to the users. Each document is represented in HTML and identified by a URL. To efficiently transport the documents over the network locally or globally, all documents are relatively small in size. Thus, a well-structured technical manual has become a collection of loosely related small document files. In order to relate documents, hyperlinking is often adopted in an ad-hoc way, no matter whether they are structurally related, semantically related, or even unrelated in any sensible way. A system analyzes the structures of related documents to automatically generate the hierarchical ToC structure that can be used by a set of generic navigation controls to traverse all documents in an efficient way. This technique not only improves the quality and accuracy of the structural aspect of industrial applications on the Web, but also supports the reusability of the navigation control for all applications without any duplicated HTML code in any documents.

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